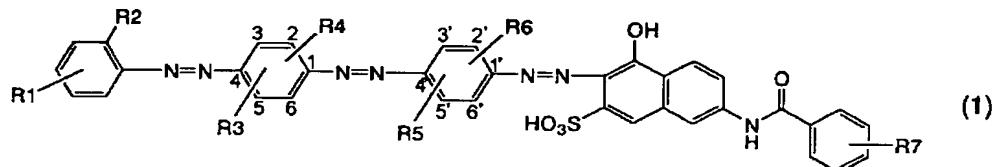


CLAIMS

1. An azo compound represented by the following formula (1) or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of the azo compound or the salt thereof:

[Formula 1]



wherein R1 and R2 each independently represents a sulfo group, a carboxyl group, a lower alkyl group or a lower alkoxy group, R3 represents a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group or an acetyl amino group, R4-R6 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group or an acetyl amino group, and R7 represents a hydrogen atom, an amino group or a hydroxyl group.

2. An azo compound represented by the formula (1) or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of the azo compound or the salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein the bonding position of R3 is 5-position, that of R4 is 2-position, that of R5 is 5'-position and that of R6 is 2'-position in the formula (1).

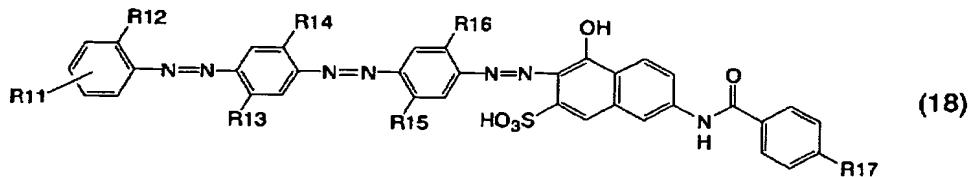
3. An azo compound represented by the formula (1) or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of the azo compound or the salt thereof according to claim 1 or 2, wherein R1 and R2 represent a sulfo group, a carboxyl group, a lower alkyl group or a lower alkoxy

group, R3 represents a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group or an acetyl amino group, R4 represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group, R5 represents a lower alkyl group, and R6 represents a lower alkyl group or a lower alkoxy group in the formula (1).

4. An azo compound represented by the formula (1) or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of the azo compound or the salt thereof according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein one of R1 and R2 represents a sulfo group and another represents a carboxyl group, a methyl group or a methoxy group, the bonding position of R1 is para-position in respect to the azo group, R3 represents a methyl group, R4 represents a hydrogen atom, a methyl group or a methoxy group, R5 represents a methyl group, R6 represents a methyl group or a methoxy group, and R7 represents an amino group located in the para-position in respect to -NHCO- group.

5. An azo compound represented by the following formula (18) or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of the azo compound or the salt thereof:

[Formula 2]



wherein R11 represents an alkyl group or an alkoxy group, R12 represents a sulfo group or a carboxyl

group, R13 and R14 represent an alkyl group, an alkoxy group or an acetyl amino group, R15 and R16 represent an alkyl group or an alkoxy group, and R17 represents a hydrogen atom or an amino group.

6. A polarizing film containing in a substrate of the polarizing film the azo compound or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of the azo compound or the salt thereof according to any one of claims 1-5.

7. A polarizing film containing in a substrate of the polarizing film the azo compound or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of the azo compound or the salt thereof according to any one of claims 1-5 and at least one of other organic dyes.

8. A polarizing film according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the substrate of the polarizing film is a film comprising a polyvinyl alcohol-based resin.

9. A polarizing film according to any one of claims 6-8 which is for liquid crystal projector.

10. A polarizing plate having the polarizing film according to any one of claims 6-9.